Photo by Dennis Carlson

AFOTEC Detachment 1 changes command

Col. Jospeh J. Bonin delivers an address after taking command of Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center Detachment 1, Feb. 6, here. Bonin served as field operations director at Air Force Inspection Agency. He is a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Academy and an Undergraduate Pilot Training (helicopter) graduate with more than 4,200 flight hours in more than 60 types of aircraft. He previously served as Air and Space Mission Directorate director and other positions at AFOTEC. He holds a bachelor of science in mathematics and computer science, and earned his master's degree in science, aviation systems. Outgoing commander, Col. Thomas P. Corbett is assigned as chief of the Global Attack Mission Area Team, Air Combat Command, at Langley AFB, Va.

DENTAL HEALTH

Caring for your child's teeth

BY CAPT. AARON W. ENGELS
377th Dental Squadron

When should I take my baby to the dentist? How do I clean my baby's teeth? They are just baby teeth, why do they need fillings? These are just a few of the questions asked by new parents.

Even before the first tooth erupts, parents need to gently wipe their baby's gums with a soft wash cloth. As new teeth come in, babies' gums become irritated. A teething ring or rubbing the gums with a clean finger can ease the discomfort. A child's soft toothbrush is best to clean the baby's first tooth.

The first trip to the dentist should be shortly after the first tooth comes in or by one year of age. This first visit will be an exploration time where the child will begin to feel more comfortable with the whole experience. Starting dental visits at an early age can establish a positive association with going to the dentist's office.

Common habits like thumb sucking and pacifiers can cause problems with a child's teeth. Prolonged use of either can push the teeth, creating an open bite. Pacifiers should be taken away by age 2 and thumb sucking discontinued by age 4.

Cavities are another big concern for your child's teeth. Strong teeth are needed for proper nutrition and appearance, as well as maintaining space for the adult teeth to come. Baby bottle tooth decay is one of the most common ways babies get cavities. Constant feeding of formula, milk, fruit juice or any other sweet liquid bathes the teeth in sugar. This sugar forms plaque, which then causes cavities. Babies should never be put to bed with a bottle containing anything other than plain water. Also never dip your baby's pacifier in sugar or honey.

Dental habits learned early can make it easier for children to take care of their teeth as they get older. Children should use a pea size amount of ADA accepted fluoride toothpaste. They should be monitored to make sure they don't swallow the toothpaste. A cartoon toothbrush and flavored toothpaste can make brushing more fun.

By starting positive dental habits at an early age, cavities can be avoided. These practices can carry over into adulthood leading to happy, healthy smiles for a lifetime.

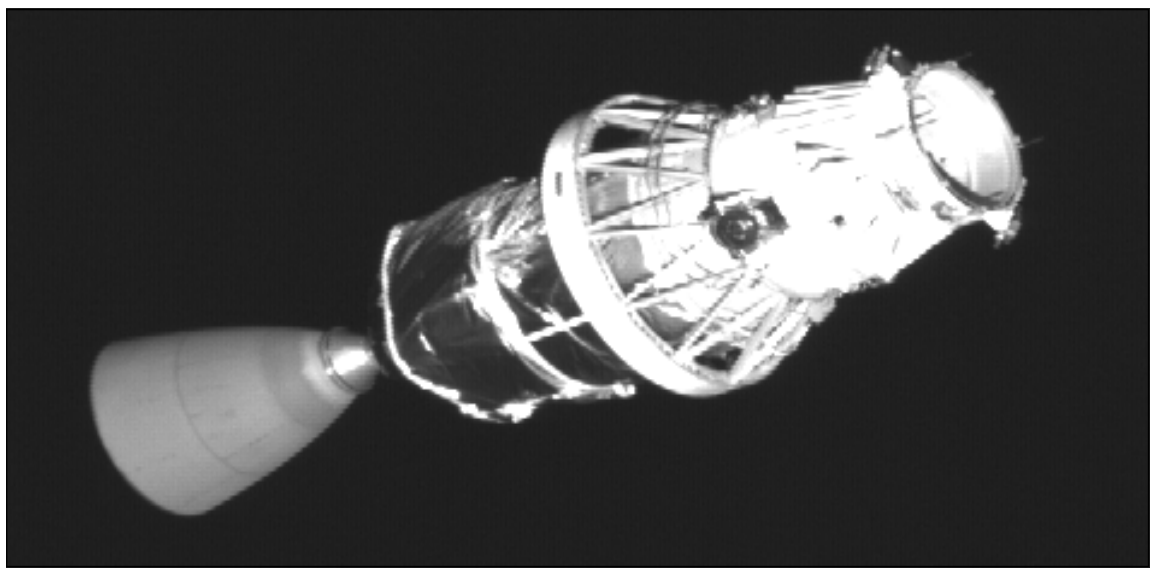
Kirtland AFB space team launches XSS-10 satellite

Thanks to the combined efforts of Kirtland AFB's Air Force Research Laboratory Space Vehicles Directorate and Space and Missiles Systems Center, Detachment 12, the Air Force has the autonomous satellite technology to inspect and photograph an object in orbit—close up.

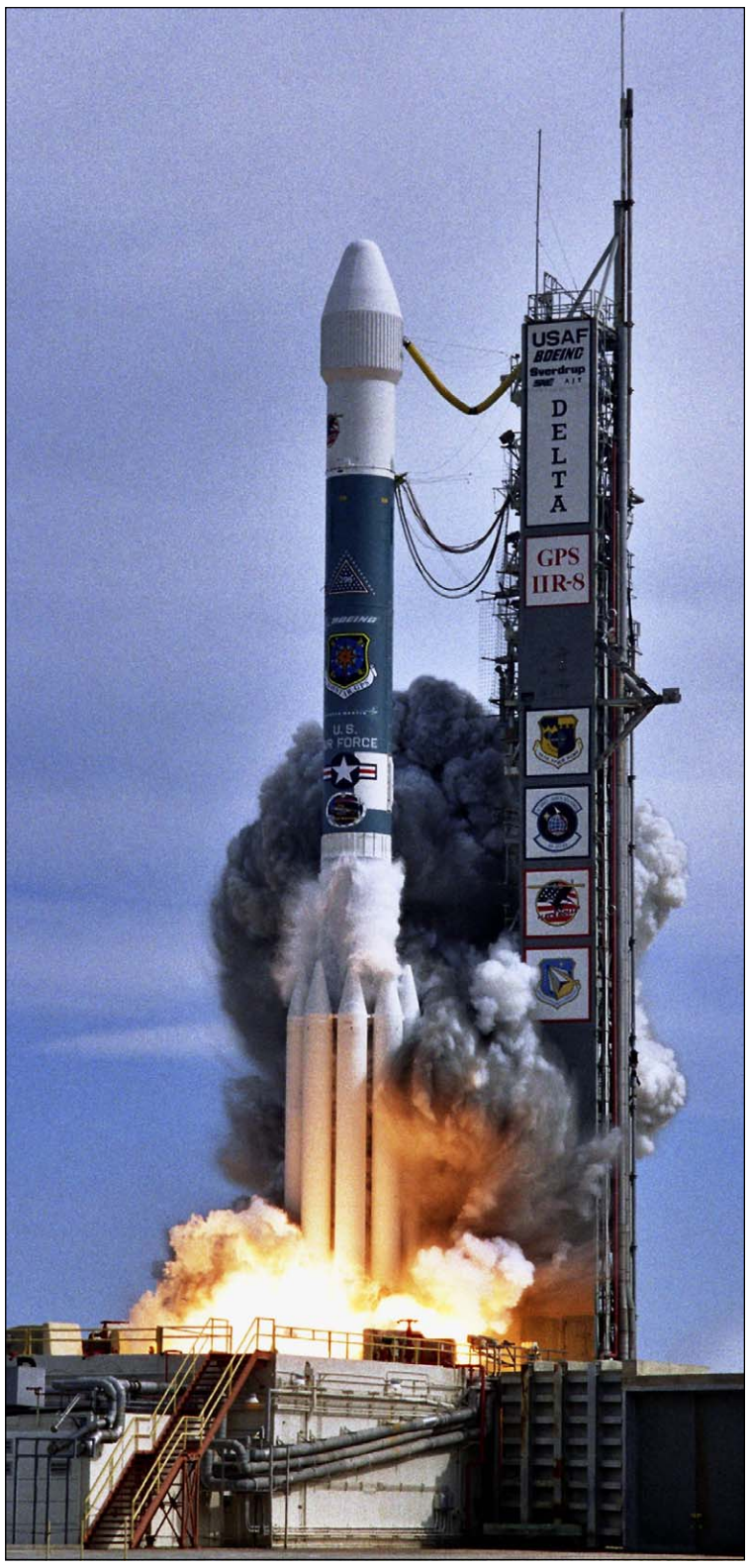
This technology came about because of the successful launch of XSS-10, an experimental Air Force Research Laboratory micro-satellite weighing only 60 pounds from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on Jan. 29.

Once in orbit, XSS-10 separated from its Boeing Delta II second-stage booster, and then circled within about 100 feet of the spent rocket, taking various photos of it.

XSS-10 technology may eventually enable the Air Force to routinely inspect orbiting objects to assess damage, refuel or repair.



ABOVE–An Air Force Research Laboratory XSS-10 micro-satellite uses its onboard camera system to view the second stage of the Boeing Delta II rocket during mission operations Jan. 30, at 800 kilometers above earth. The XSS-10 micro-satellite successfully performed a series of on-orbit maneuvers around the second stage during its 20-hour mission.



RIGHT–The Boeing Delta II rocket lifts off Jan. 29, from Cape Canaveral Air Station, Fla., carrying the Air Force Research Laboratory's XSS-10 micro-satellite. During its 20-hour mission, the 68-pound XSS-10 separated from the second stage of the Delta II to demonstrate its ability to inspect and navigate around the second stage while in orbit 800 kilometers above earth.

Photo courtesy of Boeing